

DISCOVER

BROOKS
CITY-BASE
A Technology and Business Center

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

PLANE RELOCATION



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

The F-100F Supersaver replica is moved from its former spot near the old main gate at Brooks to a green belt behind the Sidney Brooks Memorial, just west of Hangar 9. The aircraft was flown by Brooks pilots in the 1960s in weightlessness training of astronauts.

NSPS training continues at Brooks

By Ed Shannon

311th Human Systems Wing/Public Affairs

Training in preparation for the transition to the National Security Personnel System continues at Brooks City-Base, according to Toni Robertson, Brooks NSPS training manager.



“Brooks employees should take advantage now of the NSPS training courses we have available because we will transition to this new system as early as next April,” Ms. Robertson said.

Ms. Robertson said NSPS will change how employees are recruited and retained; and will build on a new performance management system that values performance, rewards contribution, and promotes excellence.

Instructors from Brooks began training this week on how to teach a series of classes geared to teach supervisors and employees how to develop an employee’s performance plan. The two courses, Performance Management for Supervisors/Managers and Performance Management for Employees will be taught in the November and January timeframes. Performance Management for Supervisors/Managers, a 16-hour or two-day class, will be offered Nov. 15-16

See National Security/Page 6

Wing welcomes new deputy director

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

A 17th century French author is credited with saying “the only thing constant in life is change.” This adage holds true in the military as well, as the 311th Human Systems Wing recently welcomed a new member to its senior leadership staff.

Col. (Dr.) Penny Giovanetti joins the Brooks team as the deputy director of the 311th HSW. She is the senior military officer at Brooks and supports Mr. Eric Stephens, wing director. She replaces former vice wing commander Col. Laura Alvarado.

“This is a critical time in our history and my job is to get Mr. Stephens’ goals accomplished,” Colonel Giovanetti said.

The colonel has held many leadership positions in her 25-year Air Force career. Her last four assignments have been as commander for various medical organizations. Prior to becoming

the 311 HSW Deputy Director, Colonel Giovanetti was commander of the 88th Medical Group, one of the three largest medical centers in the Air Force. The staff of 1,800 supported readiness, community healthcare, and medical education missions.

Colonel Giovanetti’s Air Force career could have ended over two decades ago. She received a direct commission to captain in 1980, following graduation from medical school at Des Moines University as a doctor of osteopathic medicine. Her commitment to the military was just three years. “I never intended to stay past that,” she said.

Several different factors have kept her in the Air Force. One was the assignments she was being offered.

“You get to the point where you’ve made up your mind you are going to get out and then they would offer another assignment that sounded very challenging and interesting,” Colonel Giovanetti said.

Another reason for her decision to serve in the Air Force well beyond her initial three-year commitment was her career field. “If I hadn’t been a flight surgeon, I probably wouldn’t have stayed in this long. I have loved the opportunity to work with a group of people that are so professional and so committed to what they do,” she said.

Colonel Giovanetti is a chief flight surgeon with 1,400 hours flying in a variety of Air Force aircraft, including more than 100 hours in fighters.

“There is nothing comparable in the civilian world to the kinds of things I have done in the Air Force,” she said. “I’ve provided medical care to the finest aircrews the world has ever known. I’ve been in all 50 states and 22 countries. I rolled upside down in a fighter bomb run and flown wounded heroes home. I look back, and there are things I’d never in a million years have done if I would have gotten out of the Air Force.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. (Dr.) Penny Giovanetti joined the senior leadership staff in September as the deputy director of the 311th Human Systems Wing. She is the senior military officer at Brooks City-Base.

The colonel is excited about the opportunity she has now to join the senior leadership staff for the Wing. She said she feels close to the HSW mission as she graduated from the residency in aerospace medicine program and has been involved in operational

medicine her entire career.

“This is a critical mission to the Air Force and we will continue to emphasize that. But we are also well aware of the anxieties associated with transitions,” Colonel Giovanetti said. “Mr. Stephens’ theme of ‘Mission first, people always’ is key. This is an important time, despite the temptation that BRAC brings to say ‘oh well.’ But it’s a unique opportunity to shape our future. The vision that we have is that this is the ‘Birthplace, home and future of aerospace medicine.’ We shouldn’t tie that concept of future to a geographic location. We need to stay focused on pride in the mission.”

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Articles may be submitted by email to Kendahl.Johnson@brooks.af.mil or to Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

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Proper prior planning prevents pitifully poor performance

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Brick

332nd Expeditionary Contracting Squadron, Balad AB, Iraq

As a young Boy Scout sitting in a junior leadership training class, I was taught something that sticks with me to do this day. The subject was the Seven Ps: Proper prior planning prevents pitifully poor performance. This phrase ties in very well with our day-to-day mission in Iraq.

Being deployed to the desert puts us in the spotlight; we are the lead element of our Air Force. The Seven Ps should be utilized while deployed more than ever, because if we fail to properly plan here then the poor performance to follow could be the loss of life or multimillion dollar aircraft.

But the Seven Ps aren't just useful for the big things; they are useful in everyday operations and can make your job much easier. When any project comes to you, you should immediately set a plan in motion to not only get it accomplished, but to get it accomplished the right way.

We never should just slap something together and call it good. Field-expedient fixes are fine, but as soon as we get that fix in place we need to start planning to do it right and

not just put it off. This goes back to our core value of "Excellence in all we do;" it is something that sets us apart.

This also applies to procedures and plans that were in place before we arrived. If you see something you know is not working well and causes problems, don't just shrug it off and say, "That is how we do it here," do something to change it.

As a Boy Scout, I was taught to leave a place better than I found it. That can mean simply cleaning up after yourself and what others may have left behind, or it could mean improving the place by making things work better. You can create a plan that makes your shop more efficient or solves a problem others have left behind.

Do you really want to deal with a field-expedient fix for some extended period of time? Do you want to just meet the minimum requirement of the mission without really accomplishing much? Take advantage of your time to make your shop and base better for you and those who will follow you by using the Seven Ps.

The other part of being prepared is ensuring you can replace your belongings if needed. I'm not advocating one insurance company over the other but it's important, whether you are renting or owning, you have insurance to cover any losses.

Blind bidding at its best

(Editor's note: This article is part of a continuing series of articles highlighting the best board game alternatives for classic yet tired games like Monopoly, Clue and Risk.)

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

In 2001, *Aladdin's Dragons* beat out several great games to earn GAMES Magazine's Game of the Year Award. After playing the game, and many of the games that competed for the prestigious honor, I feel it deserves all the positive accolades it has received.

The object of *Aladdin's Dragons* is to be the player to purchase the most artifacts from the Caliph's palace throughout the course of the game. This is all achieved by a series of blind bid auctions that take place each round. In addition, auctions won in the palace and other locations grant additional items to aid players in their objectives.

Each player has eight bidding tokens, ranging from 1-9 (excluding 3). Going around the table, players place these tokens face down in one of many location areas — including the Dragon Caves, the City and the Caliph's Palace. After all the bids are placed, each location is uncovered one by one in order, moving up the board.

There are five dragon caves where the players can win and collect treasures of a different color and quantity. Each round, a random deck of cards determines the treasures available in the caves. (A different deck of cards is used depending on the number of players in the game.) Although the winning bidder will receive the most treasure, there is often additional treasure available in the cave for the second or third highest bidders. Treasures are important as they are used to purchase artifacts.

The next area on the board is the City. There are four areas to bid on within the City — Aladdin's tent, Djinn's house, the market and the caravanserai. Aladdin's tent allows players to win magic spells. Djinn's house allows the winning bidder to use two artifacts in the round, rather than just one. The market allows a player to trade in a one small treasure for three small treasures. The caravanserai gives the winning bid control of the camel. The player controlling the camel is first to bid and wins all ties in bidding. Other ties are broken clockwise around the table beginning with the camel holder.

The final board area is the Caliph's Palace, which consists of the palace guard and a number of palace rooms equal to the number of players. Every round, the palace guard is represented by a random token from 1-10, which is revealed after the bidding. If a player's bid is equal to or greater than the guard's token number, they may pass into the palace rooms to buy artifacts. Otherwise, they must bribe the guard by paying the difference in treasure. Those who enter the palace may purchase artifacts at the cost of their winning bids in treasure. Each room contains one face up artifact each round.

After the winning bids are determined in every area and artifacts are purchased, the board is reset and another round commences.

The game ends when all the artifacts have been purchased, and the player with the most artifacts is the winner.

One aspect of a game that I look for is the ability to make meaningful decisions. If a game offers agonizing decisions, then it's generally a good game. *Aladdin's Dragons* offers a multitude of decisions. Deciding how to spend your eight bid chips can be a struggle. Another tough decision is when to play a certain artifact. There are six different artifacts, each with a special ability. Players can only play one artifact per term and getting the most out of your artifacts is a critical component of success. Decisions made will truly influence the outcome of the game. If you are outbid at every turn, then you can't blame poor luck for a loss; you have only yourself to blame. With eight tokens for 12 or so spaces, you can't bid everywhere — although at times you would like to.

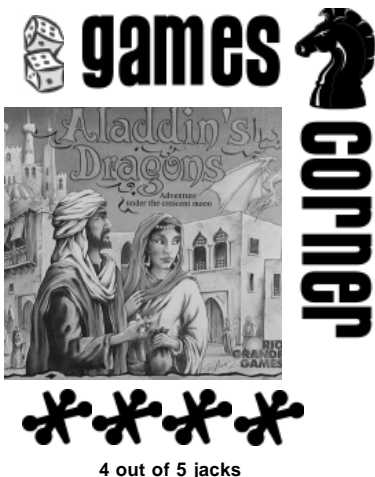
Another critical component of success is second guessing your opponent's plans and bluffing your own plans. Because all bids are placed face down, bluffing and second guessing are a fun, and vital, part of the game.

For a simple game, there is a great amount of depth and strategy. Experienced players will have a distinct advantage over new players. The learning curve is small however, and as players learn the game and understand the nuances of the blind bidding and use of artifacts and spell cards, new players will be equally competitive with old timers. Since there are no die rolls and few random components, luck has little effect on the game.

The game is easy to teach, although the simplicity of the rules themselves may cause an experienced player to gloss over a few important details. The rulebook itself is small and there are some ambiguities, particularly regarding the spells. On several occasions, the rulebook provided no clear-cut answer to a rules question and players were forced to make their best interpretation.

The game plays from three to five players. While a three-player game is certainly enjoyable, the game shines with four or five. More players bidding and competing for the various board positions increases the tenseness in the decisions.

Aladdin's Dragons may not be for everyone. There isn't a lot of player-to-player interaction, and the interaction on the board is somewhat limited. But those that enjoy the psychology of outwitting opponents, this game is great fun. It is a unique and enjoyable game with interesting mechanics and deep strategic options. Although the game is simple, the strategies for winning are not, and *Aladdin's Dragons* will challenge even the most ardent of game players. This is definitely a game to add to your collection.





Several AF legends premiered at Brooks Field

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They weren't household names when they came to Brooks Field to hone their skills as aviators. Most of them would remain in relative obscurity despite distinguished military careers, while some made a name for themselves as Air Force legends.

Aviation historians and casual observers of history know that Charles Lindbergh, Claire Chennault and Nathan Twining were stationed at Brooks during the early parts of their military careers. Few, however, know that several aviation luminaries whose monikers have become associated with Air Force achievement were also here.

These men have been the subject of a research project by former Hangar 9 volunteer and Air Force history sleuth Bob Rieder. "I started my work in the archival records in January 1990. I've always liked history, especially airplanes," said Mr. Rieder, a former New Mexico Military Institute colleague of ABC-TV news correspondent Sam Donaldson.

Mr. Rieder became interested in the base's 'hidden history' while working on another volunteer project at Hangar 9. "One day, I found a list of everyone who went through flying training at Brooks and Kelly Fields. It caught my curiosity when I saw



Former 1925 Brooks Field flying cadet Thomas White became the Air Force's fourth chief of staff.

names like Griffiss and Holloman. I wanted to know more about anyone here who had a base named after them," he said.

What he found was more than he had anticipated. Pioneer arctic aeronautical explorer Maj. Hezekiah McClellan was a Brooks flying instructor in 1926. In 1935, the same year aviation pioneer Wiley Post and humorist Will Rogers were killed in Point Barrow, Alaska, McClellan flew the first military plane over Point Barrow to map uncharted terrain. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for the charts and records he compiled that helped ensure the safety of pilots who later explored the far north. Major McClellan was killed near Centerville, Ohio on May 25, 1936 while testing a Consolidated PG-2 aircraft. The Sacramento



U.S. Air Force photos

Former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg was a 1924 Brooks flying cadet.

Air Depot was renamed McClellan AFB for the native son in 1939.

Other famous Brooks Field flying cadet alumni include Lt. Col. Townsend Griffiss (Class of '22), the Buffalo, N.Y. native who died on a secret aviation mission over the former Soviet Union in 1942; and Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover (Class of '22), the Chicopee Falls, Mass. native who became Chief of the Army Air Corps before losing his life in a 1938 aircraft accident. New York's Rome Air Depot was renamed Griffiss AFB in 1948 and Northeast Air Base in Massachusetts was renamed Westover Field in 1939.

Other Brooks Field flying cadets who had bases named after them include Maj. Gen. Paul Wurtsmith (Class of '27), the Oscoda, Mich. native killed in a

B-25 crash in 1946 for which Oscoda Army Air Field, Mich. was renamed Wurtsmith AFB in 1953; Col. George Holloman (Class of '28), the Alamogordo, N.M. native killed in a B-17 accident in Taiwan in 1946 for which Alamogordo Army Air Field was renamed Holloman AFB in 1949; Brig. Gen. Robert Travis (Class of '29), the Fairfield-Suisan, Calif. native who died in a B-29 crash at his hometown airfield in 1950 that was renamed Travis AFB later that year; Maj. George Moody (Class of '30), the Valdosta, Ga. native killed in 1941 while testing an AT-10 trainer for which Valdosta Air Base was renamed Moody AFB in 1949; Maj. Gen. Uzal Ent, the Colorado Spring, Col. native and 1924 Brooks Field balloonist for whom Ent AFB was named in 1949; and Col. David Schilling (Class of '40), the Salinas, Kans. native and World War II fighter ace killed in a 1956 car accident for whom Smokey Hill AFB was renamed Schilling AFB in 1957.

Mr. Rieder also found a few Air Force chiefs of staff who were here. Among them was Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, a 1924 Brooks flying cadet classmate of Lindbergh, who served as the Air Force's second Chief of Staff from 1948-1953. Four years after his death, Cooke Air Force Base was renamed Vandenburg AFB in 1958. Gen. Nathan Twining, also a 1924 Brooks Field fly-

ing cadet, became Air Force Chief of Staff (1953-1957) as well as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The third consecutive Air Force Chief of Staff who had previously learned to fly at Brooks in the 1920s was Gen. Thomas White who served from 1957-1961.

Mr. Rieder looked at a list of former base commanders who had been Brooks flying cadets. "I doubt any other base could claim former trainees who became commanders (here)," he said. They included 1927 Brooks Field flying cadet Lt. Gen. Edward Underhill, who became European Command's Chief of Staff.

"I then looked for anybody who was here that achieved some kind of fame," Mr. Rieder said.

They included Brig. Gen. Kenneth Walker, an early Brooks Field flying instructor who earned the Medal of Honor and for whom Roswell Army Air Field was renamed Walker AFB in 1949; Brig. Gen. Royal Baker, the Korean War jet ace who earned his wings at Brooks in 1942; Lt. Gen. Donald Yates, a Brooks Field officer from 1935-38, who flew the first scheduled weather reconnaissance mission over the North Pole in 1947; and Lt. Gen. Frank Armstrong, whose WWII B-17 mission heroics was the subject of the best selling book and movie "Twelve O'Clock High."



Force shaping board to convene in 2006

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

A force shaping board will convene in 2006 and continue to meet annually to properly shape the officer corps to meet emerging Air Force needs. Instituted by the Air Force, the board will be a regular aspect of force management and development in the future.

Authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force, the board convenes at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base in April.

Force shaping efforts started in 2004 and evolved in an effort to meet congressionally mandated fiscal year end strength requirements and maintain a balanced force.

“The force shaping board is another aspect of our force management and development,” said Brig. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, Air Force director of force management policy. “We must have a balanced force of officers and enlisted Airmen to meet

the missions of today and tomorrow.” The Air Force began fiscal year 2006 with a force imbalance. It was under strength by approximately 6,000 enlisted and over strength by approximately 3,000 officers.

A current excess of nearly 4,000 officers — primarily from the 2000 to 2004 commissioning years — make worse the imbalance and has a long-range impact on the effective development of the officer corps and the ability to access sustainable numbers of enlisted Airmen. Despite an aggressive voluntary force shaping campaign, the Air Force has not achieved the balance of officer to enlisted Airmen through existing voluntary means.

Congress recently gave each service secretary increased authority to proactively manage their junior officer corps through force shaping efforts.

“The Air Force values the service and sacrifice of all Airmen who volunteer to serve, and separating officers is a difficult decision that we do not take lightly,” General Spears said.

“This first force shaping process will ‘select-in’ approximately 7,800 line officers commissioned in 2002 and 2003 to continue to serve in our active Air Force.”

Eligible officers may continue to apply for voluntary separation until March 1, 2006 using the force shaping initiatives already approved.

Subsequent boards will consider officers commissioned three years earlier. For example, the 2007 board will evaluate officers commissioned in 2004.

“We value the service of all our Airmen,” General Spears said. “Voluntary force shaping initiatives, and the force shaping board, are key aspects of our force management and development.

“Our Airmen have many opportunities to serve — in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, as Air Force civilians or in the Army,” the general said. “We encourage Airmen in the affected year groups to pursue those opportunities to continue service to our great nation.”

Applications available for ambassadors

Public Affairs is taking applications through Oct. 28 for people interested in representing Brooks City-Base as an ambassador in 2006. Applicants who complete the registration package will serve as ambassadors, supporting the numerous science fair judge requests, career day speaker requests, base tours and community parades. Also, applicants will compete to become the 2006 Brooks Fiesta Ambassadors, which will be selected by a five-person panel. Fiesta ambassadors will have events to attend from January through April 2006, including the 10-day, city-wide, fun-filled, multi-cultural, family-oriented Fiesta San Antonio celebration set for April 21-30, 2006.

For more information or to request an ambassador application package, call Ed Shannon at 536-5140 or contact him through email at ed.shannon@brooks.af.mil.

CORRECTION

The Combat Olympics photo on page 1 of the Oct. 7 edition of the Discovery was taken by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart.



AF
SVCS



National Security Personnel System training continues at Brooks

Continued from page 1

and Nov. 17-18. Performance Management for Employees will be in Jan/Feb. Other classes the instructors will be trained to teach and will be offered on base at later dates include courses on Human Relations, Labor Relations, and Pay Pool Management.

Ann Johnson Brown, a member of the NSPS training team, is coordinating an additional class entitled “Taking Charge of Change,” for supervisors and non-supervisors. The class is in a development stage at this point, but it is expected to be offered after the first of the year.

“We are going to piggyback off a course that Wright-Patterson is in the process of developing,” Ms. Brown said. “Our plan is to offer an eight-hour class open to all Brooks employees – both supervisors and non-supervisors. The purpose of the class is to help employees deal with the stresses of change – to

feel that they have some control of the change.”

Meanwhile, members of the Brooks NSPS Implementation Team continue to urge managers, supervisors and employees to participate now in the numerous Change Management and Soft-Skills training classes.

“The implementation of NSPS will require managers, supervisors, and employees to have a basic knowledge of NSPS regulations and processes,” said Toni Robertson, Brooks NSPS training coordinator. “Also, they will need to know the core competencies or soft skills to successfully transition to and thrive in the new system.”

Training classes are offered online in two sets – Change Management and Soft-Skills, and the sets are divided into non-supervisory and supervisory groups. Every Brooks employee should determine which group (supervisory or non-supervisory) they belong to and take at least one Change Management class and

at least one Soft-Skills class in their group. Completion of a single course can take from three to five depending on the learner.

Classes offered for civilian, non-supervisory employees in the Change Management set include “Being Prepared for Change,” “Perspectives on Organizational Change,” and “Communicating during Organizational Change.”

Classes offered for civilian, non-supervisory employees in the Soft-Skills set include “Leading Change from the Front Line,” “Conquering Conflict through Communication,” “Communication Skills for Resolving Conflict,” and “The Dynamics of Interaction.”

Classes offered for civilian or military supervisory employees in the Change Management set include “Leading through Change,” “Communicating and Reinforcing Change,” “Change Leadership,” “Managing Through the Change,” “Overcome the Challenges of Change,” and “Beginning the Change Process.”

Classes offered for civilian or military supervisory employees in the Soft-Skills set include “The Manager as Coach and Counselor,” “Continuous Performance Assessment,” and “An Essential Guide to Giving Feedback.”

Ms. Robertson said any Air Force employee may register online for computer based training courses at the Air Force Portal. There is no cost for taking the online courses. Employees should obtain their supervisor’s approval before taking online courses. Supervisors are highly

encouraged to allow their employees the time needed to complete the recommended courses. The time used to complete these courses is considered duty time. But before employees can accomplish their training, they must register at the Air Force Portal to access the courses.

For information about how to access the courses online, call Staff Sgt. Troy Rude at 536-3732. For more information about NSPS training, contact Ms. Robertson at 53-5692 or Ms. Laverne Kistner at 53-6964.

Instructions for accessing computer-based training courses via the Air Force Portal:

1. Log into the AF portal: <https://www.my.af.mil>
2. If you do not have a user name and password you will need to create one. Go to the Register Now box and select “Register without CAC”
3. Once you have your user name and password, login and ensure that you are on the AF Home tab page.
4. From the “Top Viewed Items” area, select “IT E-Learning”
5. Once you select “IT E-Learning” the SkillPort page will appear. Using the “Search for” text box you can search for any courses you wish.
6. If you wish you can change the category drop down to “Courses” to speed up your search.



ERIC STEPHENS
311th Human Systems
Wing director

ACTION LINE

536-2222

The DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Brooks City-Base Security.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Mission Support Group –		Military Pay.....	536-5778
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Safety.....	536-2111	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
BDA Housing Community Maintenance.....	533-5900	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
BDA Housing Community Office.....	533-5905	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base AF Project Office.....	536-3655
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks Development Authority.....	536-5366

Brooks Cares gears up for holidays

By Master Sgt. Laurie Olerich

First Sergeant, 311th Human Systems Wing

The holiday season is fast approaching—only 68 days till Christmas. Like most folks, Brooks Cares is gearing up for the holiday season. Brooks Cares is a program that helps provide food and necessities to Brooks City-Base families during the year. The program gets the most use during the holidays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Beginning Nov. 3, unit first sergeants will begin collecting nominations for Thanksgiving food gift cards. All base personnel are eligible to be nominated. Supervisors should contact their first sergeant for nomination letters. The letters will be due to first sergeants Nov. 15.

Last year, Brooks Cares provided food and toys for 17 Brooks' families. These packages enabled the families to have a little more holiday cheer and gave the children some surprise gifts. Brooks Cares only collects donations of food and toys from base personnel. Because the response and generosity of Brooks personnel, Brooks Cares does not contact outside agencies for funding. Additionally, Brooks Cares and the Family Support Center will work together on the traditional Angel Tree program.

Brooks Cares donation boxes will be distributed to units Nov. 28. Donations of non-perishable foods, such as vegetables, stuffing mixes, side dishes, pie fixings, and drinks will go a long way toward assisting families. Donations of new, unopened toys for small children are encouraged. Donations will be collected through December. Contact your first sergeant for more information on Brooks Cares.



Photo by Capt. Jason Bishop

Master Sgt. Ron Pena (left), Master Sgt. Cindy Riley and Senior Master Sgt. Bertell Francois work at sorting food donations for last year's Brooks Cares program.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

PREDEPLOYMENT BRIEFING

Oct. 25 — 1 - 2 p.m., Bldg. 537

Mandatory briefings address issues that pertain to deployed service members and their families. Appointments necessary.

KEEPING A LID ON HOLIDAY SPENDING

Oct. 26 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Have you set aside any money to pay for Christmas this year? Have you finished paying for last Christmas yet? If the answer is "no" to either of these questions, then this class is for you. Learn money saving tips, how to save for shopping, and how to set up a holiday spending budget plus more.

SPONSOR TRAINING

Nov. 8 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Nov. 9 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

FSC AMENITIES

For those parents who visit our Family Support Center accompanied by children or infants, our FSC has a separate family room equipped with a computer. While Mom and/or Dad use the computer or internet, the child/children can enjoy the Mickey Mouse TV with numerous exciting kid videos, a children's recliner and a children's table with chairs, games and books. For the infants, a high chair, baby pen and changing table are available to meet their needs. In addition, an adult rocking chair and recliner is also available for Mom and Dad to put your little one to sleep or just to take a break and relax with the kids. Come visit us anytime during the hours 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register for a class, call 536-2444



Halloween tips to keep kids safe

By David Lemme

Former Ground Safety Manager

Halloween can and should be a day of fun for the children and families who wish to take part in the custom of trick-or-treating. By practicing some basic safety tips, outlined below, you and your children can enjoy a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

Location

It makes sense to visit homes in your neighborhood and even trick-or-treat only at the residences you are familiar with. You should not enter a home to receive a treat; just stay on the porch or sidewalk outside the door. Also, never enter any abandoned building, deserted area or enclosed place. Tell your child never to approach cars or accept treats from persons in a car. Some communities and community organizations host Halloween parties as a safe and fun alternative to trick-or-treating door-to-door.

Costumes

Having the right costume is important to your children. Having the right type of costume should be a priority for you. Try to ensure that your children’s costumes are light colored so that they are easily visible to drivers. If you have to use dark colors, place reflective tape in several parts of the costume — across the back and on the front and sides to ensure that no matter what direction they are facing, your children can be seen. Have your child carry a flashlight or a glowstick.

Stay away from masks. Most masks will restrict a child’s vision. A good, fun and inexpensive alternative is face paint. If you are taking a group of children trick-or-treating, have everyone meet at your home a half hour before you plan to leave so the children can paint each other’s faces. Make sure costumes are flame-retardant and keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls and other “bumps in the night.”

Carved pumpkins

Keep burning jack-o’-lanterns away from curtains and combustibles indoors; outdoors, keep them away from landings and doorsteps where they could be knocked over or come into contact with costumes. Use battery-powered lights rather than candles to light jack-o’-lanterns. Instruct children to stay away from open flames.

Treats

All candy should be inspected by an adult before children are allowed to eat it. Throw away any treats that are not store-purchased and individually wrapped; for example, fresh fruit, unwrapped candies, open candies and any treat that looks suspicious. When giving treats, consider small toys, non-toxic bubbles or sugar-free treats. Remember, some children have to follow certain dietary restrictions which prohibit them from eating the traditional treats we offer on Halloween.

Company

Young children should never trick-or-treat without an adult. If you can’t accompany your children, make sure they go trick-or-treating with an adult or responsible young adult you know well. It’s always safer to go out with a group of family and/or friends. Try to confine your trick-or-treating to the daylight hours. If parents work during the day and can only take children out in the evening, limit visits to homes with porch or outside lighting.

Remember

Remember to follow basic safety rules. Walk, do not run. Always wait at the curb and look both ways before crossing the street. Cross the street at the corner and do not cut in between parked cars. Obey all traffic lights. If you are driving on Halloween, make sure to use extra caution and be alert for any children who may be on the street.



Zero Brooks injuries, fatalities reported during 101 Critical Days of Summer

By Elizabeth Castillo
Discovery writer

As Labor Day came to a close and summer officially ended, the final results of the Air Force wide 101 Critical Days of Summer were tallied. Brooks received an impressive total of zero fatalities or injuries reported.

“As far as injuries and fatalities, we had a very quiet 101 Critical Days, which is excellent,” said Amando Perez, Interim Chief of Safety.

The Air Force wide effort was created in the early 1980s as a result of the increasing numbers of fatalities occurring between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Through dissemination of safety brochures and constant reminders of the importance of Personal Risk Man-

agement, the Air Force has lowered its number of fatalities during 101 Critical Days from 32 Airmen in 2004, to 29 in 2005.

“A lot of it is based on risk management. During this time

period is when people get out more, and we expose ourselves to elements that we are not thoroughly familiar with,” Mr. Perez said. “We encourage people to get out during this time period and have fun with their family and friends, but Risk Management has got to be priority.”

The first week of 101 Critical Days is when the Air Force had its biggest num-

ber of fatalities, with a total of four on-duty fatalities and four off-duty related incidents.

As far as injuries and fatalities, we had a very quiet 101 Critical Days, which is excellent.

Amando Perez
Interim Chief of Safety

Through-out the duration of the 15-week challenge, six Airmen lost their lives as a result of work related duties. Nine fatalities were due to motor vehicle related accidents with two involving alcohol. There was an equal amount of motorcycle fatalities, however none involving alcohol. Four fatalities occurred during sports and recreation activities.

While the Air Force continues to try and reduce the number of fatalities and

injuries during 101 Critical Days, it is important to practice PRM throughout the year, and with all activities.

“We can do it through education and enforcement,” Mr. Perez said. “Education meaning training, and enforcement through supervisor counseling or reprimanding an employee when they are not doing what they are supposed to be doing as far as safety is concerned.”

The Air Force is focused on maintaining the health and well-being of its personnel and while Brooks completed its mission of 101 Critical Days with excellent results, the mission to stay safe throughout the year continues.

“As well as we did for summer, we would love to see that for the entire year,” Mr. Perez said.

elizabeth.castillo@brooks.af.mil



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Col. (Dr.) Penny Giovanetti (left), deputy director for the 311th Human Systems Wing, Mr. Eric Stephens, Wing Director, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Reggie Williams take time to fill out the pledge cards for the Combined Federal Campaign. The campaign runs through Nov. 18, with Brooks working towards a goal of raising \$353,895.



BROOKS BRIEFS



Human Centrifuge Research Subjects

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biosciences and Protection Division at Brooks City-Base is in need of active duty volunteers to participate in several studies which help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150.00 hazardous duty pay per month. For more information, contact Suzanne DeLaCruz at 536-6258.

Lieutenant Colonel selects

Congratulations to the Brooks majors who were recently selected to promote to lieutenant colonel. The group includes Maj. Judy Gavin, Maj. Tammy Savoie, Maj. Paul Pirkle, Maj. Chris Totten, Maj. Jon Dandrea, Maj. Ron Adamson, Maj. James Boles, Maj. Debbie Olson and Maj. Todd Nicholson.

Domestic Violence Prevention program

The Domestic Violence Prevention Month program has been moved to Thursday due to the quarterly awards ceremony. The program

will feature Ms. Jane Shafer, Family Assistance Crisis Team Program Coordinator for the Victims' Advocacy Section of the San Antonio Police Department. She will discuss SAPD programs and current domestic violence trends. The program will be from 3-4 p.m. at the Base Chapel. This program is open to all Brooks personnel. It is one hour of training that can save your life or save your family from disaster. Contact Elizabeth Thompson at 536-4711 for more information.

Project CHEER 70s Party

Come dressed as your favorite 1970s personality and be ready to Hustle the night away at a Project CHEER-sponsored party Oct. 28. The event begins at 8 p.m. in the Brooks Club and will cost \$5. There will be an open cash bar and finger foods. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Symone Linthicome at 536-1581.

Wing Monthly Promotion Ceremony

The Wing Monthly Promotion Ceremony for November will be held Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club. All Brooks personnel are invited.

Brooks military punishment actions

The following nonjudicial punishment actions (Article 15) and other significant disciplinary actions were taken at Brooks City-Base from July to August.

Article 15s:

A major (O-4) from the Air Force Institute of Operational Health was punished under Article 15 for fraternization and two counts of engaging in an unprofessional relationship. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$500 and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant (E-5) from AFIOH was punished under Article 15 for the counts of failing to go to the appointed place of duty and one count of failing to obey a lawful order. Punishment consisted of a reduction to the grade of senior airman (E-4), five days extra duty and a reprimand. A captain (O-3) from the 311th Human Systems Group was punished under Article 15 for stealing merchandise from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Punishment consisted of a reprimand.

An airman 1st class (E-3) from the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine was punished under Article 15 for over-indulgence of alcohol so as to prohibit him from performing his duties (unfit for duty). Punish-

ment consisted of a reduction to the grade of airman (E-2), seven days extra duty and a reprimand.

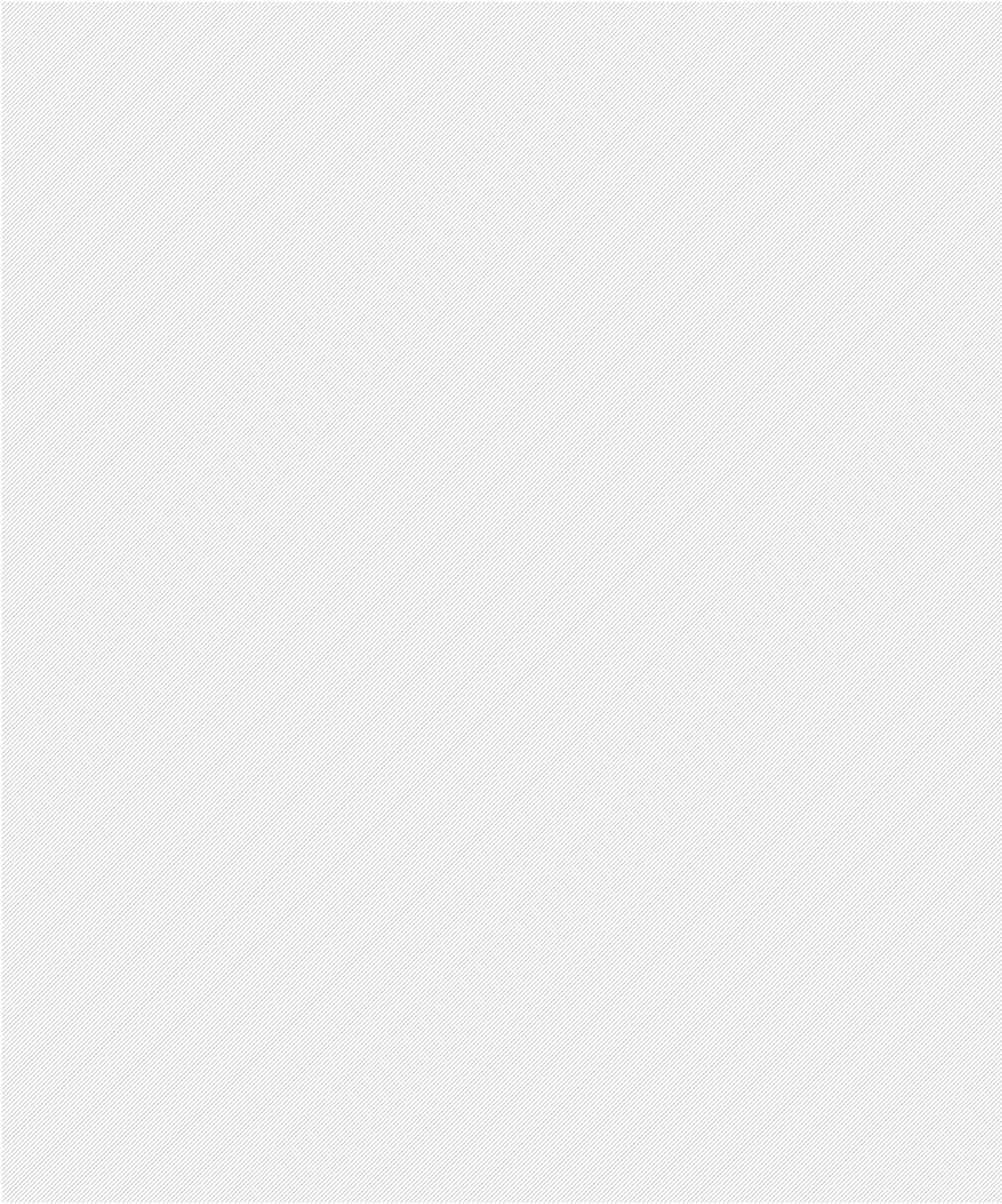
An airman basic (E-1) from the USAFSAM was punished under Article 15 for underage drinking. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$150, seven days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman basic (E-1) from USAFSAM was punished under Article 15 for underage drinking. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$150, seven days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman basic (E-1) from the USAFSAM was punished under Article 15 for underage drinking. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$150, 10 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman 1st class (E-3) from USAFSAM was punished under Article 15 for underage drinking. Punishment consisted of a suspended reduction to the grade of airman, forfeiture of \$300, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman basic (E-1) from USAFSAM was punished under Article 15 for underage drinking. Punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$288, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.





Robins Airman sentenced to death

By Lanorris Askew
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Andrew Paul Witt, the Robins Airman found guilty last week of two specifications of premeditated murder and one specification of attempted premeditated murder, has been sentenced to death by a military panel.

The 23-year-old Airman is now the only Air Force member to sit on death row.

Airman Witt’s death sentence is the first Air Force death sentence since the United States vs. Jose Simoy in 1990, which on appeal, the death penalty was set aside and Mr. Simoy is currently serving life in prison.

According to Col. Jeff Robb, center staff judge advocate, by the nature of the findings, premeditated murder carries a punishment of a mandatory life sentence, but a unanimous vote by the jury sentenced him to death.

Maj. Vance Spath, Washington, D.C., chief circuit trial counsel, U.S. Air Force Eastern Judicial Circuit, Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., said this was the first death penalty case he has tried, and it has been an emotional time.

“My team has been away from home for a long time,” he said. “We’ve been working down here for the last few months exclusively, and it’s a relief to be finished, a relief to go home and it feels good to have this case finished for the Air Force.”

He added that he believes whatever the jury gave Airman Witt would’ve been a just sentence, but he believes justice has definitely been served.

Colonel Robb explained that Witt won’t be executed before the expiration of all appellate avenues, which could take years.

“Once the trial is complete, the center commander (Maj. Gen. Mike Collings) will have a chance to take action on the case,” he said. “After that action (which is to either approve or disapprove the sentence), the appeals process can begin.”

That process begins with an automatic appeal to the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, a military court. Appeals from there would go to the Court of Appeals for Armed Forces, which is a civilian court. Any further appeals would go to the United States Supreme Court.

“A review by the Supreme Court is not mandatory,” said the colonel. “At the conclusion of all appeals the President of the United States still has a pardoning power.”

The sentence followed a week of testimony from family and friends of the victims who urged the all-officer panel to sentence Airman Witt to death. Their statements were followed by pleas from the convicted Airman’s family and friends to spare his life.

While the fathers of the victims described the pain they still endure over the loss of their children, the parents of Airman Witt tried to paint



Air Force photo

Senior Airman Andrew Paul Witt, seen above in court, was found guilty by a military jury on two counts of premeditated murder and sentenced to death.

a picture of their son that many haven’t seen.

Melanie Pehling, the Airman’s mother, said her son is a not an evil person and was a joy to bring up.

“We are asking for mercy because I know what’s underneath,” she said. “I know he has more to offer than what happened on July 5, 2004.”

Terry Witt, the Airman’s father, described him as loving and compassionate, and said his son taught him the meaning of unconditional love.

After testimony from both sides, Airman Witt took the stand and gave an unsworn statement in which he apologized for his crime.

“To the families, to the Schliepsieks and Bielenbergs, I am so sorry from the bottom of my being,” he said as he turned to face the families. “I’m so sorry I took your son and your daughter away from you, and also, to Mr. King, I’m so sorry for hurting you.”

The Airman also submitted a written statement where he took responsibility for his actions, but asked the jury to spare his life.

“I would like to apologize again to the Schliepsieks, the Bielenbergs, the Kings, my family, and the Air Force for my actions,” he wrote. “My life has changed dramatically since that night, and I plan to continue to make changes. I want you to know that I am firmly resolved to lead a productive life in the service of others and will not wander from this path if given the chance. Please allow me to live so that I can do this. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.”

The Airman also discussed his Air Force career. “I regret losing my focus on the Air Force mission — looking back, I do truly love the Air Force, and I have been proud to wear the uniform.

“I understand that my actions mean that I will never wear it again once this trial is over, and I am sorry for that as well. I am sorry for the discredit I have brought upon the Air Force and the negative attention I have brought to Robins Air Force Base,” he wrote.

Legal Assistance Hours: If you need a power of attorney, will or other legal assistance, please call the Brooks Legal Office at 536-3301. Legal assistance is available to active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents. Appointments are available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and walk-ins are welcome Thursdays from 1:30-2:45 p.m. The legal office offers notary services during duty hours Monday through Friday on a drop-in basis. Those with short notice deployment or other emergency may call or walk-in to the Legal Office any time.



A LOOK at BROOKS

What is your
favorite childhood
Halloween
memory?



Leticia Martinez
AFMSA

At Five Palms Elementary School, when I won my first cake walk competition.



Staff Sgt. Kristine Robin
AFMSA

The competitions between me and my sisters to see who could get the most candy.



Kristy Moy
AFRL

Having my 'Pop' take me and my brothers trick-or-treating on our golf cart.



Craig Brimhall
311th CS

As a teenager, my buddies and I would run out on Halloween night and steal pumpkins and put them on the stairs of our high school.



Tech. Sgt. John Berry
311th CS

Dressing up as a scarecrow and going trick-or-treating with my brothers and sisters



Things to do around Brooks

Janice McMahon, 536-5475

SIDNEY'S Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Sidney's has been "scrambling" to please its customers. It now offers eggs cooked to order — omelettes, scrambled or fried, plus pastries and bagels. Stop by the new grill on the food line.

FITNESS CENTER Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Construction on additional showers to the women's locker room started Monday. The project will take approximately 45 days to complete. The men's DV locker room will be used to accommodate female personnel. Individuals in the men's DV locker room will be required to have their possessions moved from the area by Thursday.

During the construction phase, all lockers in the men's DV area will be daily use only and any locks left on overnight will be cut and contents removed. The base swimming pool will be used as an overflow area specifically for the use of showers Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, the Health and Wellness Center has a shower area that will be made available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stop by the center and get more information on the many free classes offered by the staff. On going instructional classes:

- *Aerobics*: Mon, Wed: 5 p.m.; Fri: 11:30 a.m.
- *Yoga*: Mon, Wed, Fri: 5 p.m.
- *Pilates*: Mon, Wed, Thurs: 5 p.m.
- *Kickboxing*: Mon: 11:30 a.m.; Fri: 5 p.m.
- *Power Cycling*: Tues, Thurs: 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.
- *Circuit Training*: Tues, Thurs: 6:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

BROOKS CLUB Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Gourmet Night — Gourmet Night will be offered today at the Brooks Club. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the cost is \$30 per person. The menu for the evening will consist of gazpacho soup, red snapper and scallop canun, grilled marinated pork tenderloin with sweet potato puree and warm chipotle salsa, mixed cabbage and apple salad and lemon charlotte. Reservations are required and seating is limited to 30 guests.

Cook Your Own Steak Night — Patrons can now grill their own steaks. Bring the family or friends to the Boar's Head Pub every Monday evening from 4 to 7 p.m. and cook your steak just the way you like it. For \$7.50, you will receive a New York strip steak, potato salad, baked beans, rolls and butter.

OUTDOOR RECREATION Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

The Family Camp is a very secluded and quiet place where travelers like to stay for a few days, weeks or months. The camp is located on the southwestern corner of the base. There is a "catch and release" fishing pond where anglers can relax and practice their sport. Accommodations also include the use of a bath house and restrooms located in Bldg. 1194. Full camper hookups are \$10 per day and include sewer, water and electricity. Partial camper hookups are \$8 per day and include water and electricity.

OPERATION HALLOWEEN

Halloween is just around the corner so it's time to make plans for a safe fun, filled evening. The festivities begin Oct. 31 at 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Programs Center with a costume contest. Create that unique, one-of-a-kind costume for kids in your family and enter your child in the contest. Age groups for judging will be 0-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-18 years. Prizes will be awarded to winners of each category.

Trick or Treating will be through base housing form 6 to 8 p.m. Food and beverages will be sold at a nominal fee at the center during the evening. There will be games for youth to participate in on the center grounds. Youth can also pick up an entry for the coloring contest. There will be four separate age groups: 5-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-12 years and 13-15 years. Deadline for submitting a completed entry form is Tuesday. Winners will be announced Wednesday and entries will be displayed Oct. 26-28.



Carl Forbes (left) and Staff Sgt. Robert George (right), 59th Medical Squadron, competed head-to-head as the two remaining poker players of a four-week Air Force Materiel Command Texas Holdem tournament. Carl Forbes, the eventual winner, will travel to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Oct. 29 to represent Brooks City-Base and compete against winners from the other AFMC bases. Mr. Forbes won \$300 toward his Brooks Club card and will compete for the grand prize of \$1,500.



AF nurses embrace spirit of military nursing centennial

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

One hundred years ago, U.S. Army nurses assumed the enormous and always challenging responsibility of caring for the sick and wounded. Today, Air Force nurses are perpetuating that spirit of dedication and professionalism that was first demonstrated by their predecessors after the Army Nurse Corps was established in 1905.

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine has continued American military nursing's legacy as the primary trainer of all Air Force active duty, Guard and Reserve nurses who have flying assignments. This heritage is rooted to the Army nursing program's evolution prior to World War II.

"The original idea of flight nurse is credited to Lauretta Schimmoler, who in 1932 envisioned the Aerial Nurse Corps of America," said former USAFSAM aerospace nursing instructor Maggie O'Loughlin. During the 1930s, few civilian patients were transported by air due to the era's lack of trained aviation medicine personnel and medical technology limitations. Until the advent of WWII, the Army primarily relied on ground and sea conveyances to transport patients.

Despite the American Red Cross and Army Air Corps chief Gen. Hap Arnold's rejection of Schimmoler's aerial nurse idea in 1937, an aeromedical visionary believed the idea had great merit. Army Air Corps Surgeon General David Grant had conceived the idea of using military cargo planes to transport combat casualties and supplies. He established the Army air evacuation service in 1942 and supported it with the formation of the Army Air Force

School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field in Louisville, Ky.

"General Grant recruited Army nurses and commercial airline hostesses who were (also) nurses for the (flight nursing) class," recalls octogenarian Geraldine Dishroon Brier, the first flight nurse to graduate from the school in 1943.

While aeromedical technology has changed drastically since WWII with the advent of jet aircraft, ventilators and oxygen analyzers, much of flight nursing's many basic responsibilities haven't changed. One of Brier's classmates, Ruth Chesson, recalls, "She (flight nurse) has learned to recognize and to treat the effects of high altitude flying by adjusting the dosage of certain drugs. She may be called upon to readjust splints, administer sedatives or to arrest sudden hemorrhage, treat shock, give stimulants or to administer oxygen. The flight nurse is taught how to discipline patients while in flight and how to handle different situations that may arise."

Flight nursing history is filled with stories of quick-thinking care givers who rose to the occasion when patient conditions changed dramatically. The training that 2nd Lt. Mary Hawkins had received at Bowman Field helped her succeed during a dire situation. During an air evacuation mission from Palau to Guadalcanal, this flight nurse used an improvised device to save the life of a patient whose trachea had been severed when their aircraft crash landed. The Trained Nurse & Hospital Review reported in a March 1945 article that Lieutenant Hawkins fashioned a makeshift windpipe from Mae West life belt inflation tubes and an aseptic syringe's suction apparatus to keep the



Air Force photo

An Air Force flight nurse cares for a patient at a field hospital during World War I.

patient's throat clear of blood until help arrived 19 hours later.

Such heroics, while extraordinary, are not rare among Air Force nurses who have made many sacrifices to provide care and comfort to injured and sick patients. Since the Army Air Force School of Air Evacuation moved to San Antonio on Oct. 15, 1944 to become part of USAFSAM, many flight nurses have lost their lives in the line of duty. Among them is Lt. Wilma Vinsant, for whom a Brooks City-Base street is named, who was killed during an air evacuation mission in Europe.

Air Force nursing has evolved exponentially since its inception over 60 years ago. Today, the more than 19,000 active and reserve component members of Air Force nursing occupy a small niche among our nation's 2.8 million registered nurses. However, their significance to Air Force

readiness and aerospace medicine continues to grow.

"Air Force nurses are on the leading edge in the implementation of new health delivery models. Primary Care Optimization, and its overarching strategy of population health management, remains the focus of our peacetime health care system," said Brig. Gen. Barbara Brannon in 2001 as Director of Nursing Services in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. The PCO program of preventive medicine and disease management was an initiative launched in June 2000 by Lt. Gen. P.K. Carlton, the now retired Air Force Surgeon General.

Air Force nursing is also on the cutting edge of training. This includes USAFSAM's Critical Care Air Transport team and Expeditionary Medical Support team training (*See related story page 17*).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart



ANDERS

**FULL NAME:**

Doris "Andy" Anders

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:Program Manger, Air Force
Center for Environmental Excellence**IN SIMPLE TERMS,
WHAT DO YOU DO?:***Toxicologist with the assignment of
federal oversight on risk assessments
and risk management decisions at
several Air Force bases***BIRTHDAY:**

Christmas Eve

HOMETOWN:

Bartlesville, Okla.

FAMILY STATUS:

Married

PERSONAL MOTTO:*"Just keep on truckin'!"***INSPIRATION:***People who don't give up, but who
keep working as hard as they can and
make a difference both personally and
professionally. My favorite examples
are my dad Xelon Anders, Madame
Curie and Dr. Condalezza Rice***HOBBIES:**

Reading, goofing off

**I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE
BECAUSE:***The big bucks, of course!***FIVE-YEAR GOAL:***Become a GS-14 and head an environ-
mental division. Lose a few pounds and
get back into shape. Finish remodeling
the house we've been working on for
seven years.***MY GREATEST
ACCOMPLISHMENT:***Raising four sons without killing any of
them (regardless of how tempting it
was at the moment), and seeing them
become adults that's I'd like to know
as friends.***MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:***Our dogs — Rocky, Soga and Pepper***IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:***Finish the house, pay off the mortgage
and bills and establish a memorial
scholarship at Midwestern State
University for my son Jonathan who
was killed by a drunk driver.*

Education sets stage for biology career

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

Very few jobs in the Air Force allow an employee to study amphibian protocols one minute and testify before an Environmental Protection Agency hearing the next. But it's that variety and challenge that keeps life exciting for one employee at the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

Dr. Doris "Andy" Anders has worked as a toxicologist for AFCEE at Brooks City-Base for the past nine years. Her primary assignment is federal oversight on risk assessments and risk management decisions for U.S. Air Force installations. But she wears many hats, and her other duties, responsibilities and experiences number greatly and vary widely.

"AFCEE is a great place to work," Dr. Anders said. "I have enjoyed nearly every minute of it."

Dr. Anders was born in Tulsa and grew up in Bartlesville, Okla. She knew she wanted to get an education and decided to study biology, thanks in no small part to her love for animals. "I have always loved animals," she said. "I have always loved bugs and spiders and snakes and everything."

Before she was able to finish her education, she fell in love, was married and started having children. Her husband was in the Air Force and constantly moving around the world kept her from finishing school. She said it was a sacrifice because education is important to her, but at the same time she was able to travel and see parts of the world that she would never have seen otherwise. "I lived all over, including Germany and Japan. I got to live in some great places and meet wonderful people."

But she never gave up on her dream of finishing school, and when her children were older she continued her education. "I went back to school after I was 40 years old," she said. "I was competing with kids in their early 20s and it was not easy. It was a lot of work, but it was a lot of fun too."

Financially, it wasn't easy. "At one point there were five of us in college at once — myself and four sons. Talk about expensive — it was very," she recalled.

She got a job teaching at the school to help finance the diplomas. "I was

faculty and was able to get a discount on my sons' tuitions. They told me it was the biggest discount they ever gave. I think they were glad I didn't have any more kids," she said.

Dr. Anders earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Midwestern State University from Wichita Falls, Texas. She wasn't satisfied with just one degree, so she went on to get a master's degree. And in 1992, she graduated from Texas Tech University with a PhD. All three degrees were in biology, but again she wasn't satisfied just choosing a major and calling it good. For her undergrad and master's work, she double minored in botany and geology. For her PhD, she double minored in microbial ecology and botany.

Following graduation, she continued teaching at the university but was looking at other career options. An avid reader of authors like Patricia Cornwell, Dr. Anders thought she would like to work as a forensic toxicologist, helping solve crimes and murder mysteries. But it wasn't in the cards. "When you reach a nexus or crossroads in your life, you never know the direction you might be sent," she said.

For her, that direction was opposite of forensics. Jacobs Engineering offered her a job as a staff biologist in Denver. It paid nearly twice her teaching salary and so she accepted it. "It was tough to leave because I loved teaching, but the offer was too good to pass up," she said.

She had a variety of responsibilities with Jacobs Engineering, including remote-duty field assignments as both biologist and geologist. After three years, she left to take a position as senior biologist and ecologist for Aguirre Engineering at the Rocky Flats Plant in Golden, Colo. She was assigned numerous duties, including field oversight and technical surveys. "It was beautiful — 6,000 acres including 5,000 acres of open mountain prairie. I really enjoyed working there," she said.



By then, the government had Dr. Anders on its radar and in 1994, she was offered a position as a lead physical scientist for the Department of Energy. She packed her bags and moved to Germantown, Md., to work at Headquarters DOE in Washington D.C. (It was a move she said gave her both "culture shock and sticker shock.") She worked primarily in the Environmental Management Division performing contract support, but her job sent her all over the country. She performed radiological inspections at sites in Rocky Flats, Los Alamos, N.M., Hanford, Wash., Paducah, Ky., and Oak Ridge, Tenn.

She worked at headquarters for nearly three years. But her father, who lived in Oklahoma, was sick and dying and she needed to be closer so she could travel back and forth to visit him on a regular basis. AFCEE was the closest job she could find that interested her and in 1997 she changed jobs again.

Dr. Anders has become somewhat of an emissary, representing AFCEE at the MAJCOM, national and international levels. One of her favorite experiences was traveling to Russia to develop a joint Department of Defense and Russian Ministry of Defense environmental conference. She estimates that she is traveling on TDY, or temporary duty, about 50 percent of the time.

When she isn't working or traveling, Dr. Anders spends time on her five-acre plot of land south of San Antonio in Wilson County. She and her husband are remodeling an old RV Barn into a house — an arduous task that has taken more than seven years thus far.

Dr. Doris Anders will continue to plug away at remodeling her house. And she will continue to work hard, traveling the country and representing AFCEE and the Air Force. She is a self-described "careful optimist" — enjoying the stability of a good job and excited about life, work and what the future might bring.



AN AEROSPACE MEDICINE SERIES

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Air evacuation's progress aids casualty survival

(Editor's note: This is Part 9 of a comprehensive series that focuses on the enormous impact that Air Force vision and ingenuity has had in the development of lifesaving scientific medical advances and innovations whose legacy continues to benefit America's military and civilian community.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Hurricane Katrina survivor Aaron Harvey didn't hesitate leaving flood ravaged New Orleans for a new life in San Antonio when the Air Force made possible his escape. He was among thousands of evacuees whose survival depended upon the reliability of an aeromedical evacuation system that was born out of aviation medicine's commitment to the casualties of war.

"The water was still rising in the streets when I was evacuated off the roof of a supermarket," recalls Mr. Harvey. Having lost his home and art studio in the storm surge, this military veteran is grateful to the Air Force for helping save 67 pieces of art. "They (aircrews) were saving lives, yet they took time to secure my paintings (aboard a C-130)," he said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force Reserve's 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from Lackland Air Force Base was rescuing traumatized and critically ill patients plucked from nursing homes and hospitals. They needed dialysis, blood transfusions and intensive care to survive.

"We were strapping people to the (plane's) floor to get as many people out of there. C-130s seat 73, but we evacuated more than 100 people at a time," recalls First Lt. Jim Burchard, a 433rd Airlift Wing pilot. A veteran of air evacuation missions supporting Indian Ocean tsunami and



The Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's air transportable iron lung was used to transport polio victim Mary Lee Barnes, 31, to her Columbus, Ohio, home in 1954.

Hurricane Rita victims, Lieutenant Burchard is proud to have contributed to aeromedical evacuation heritage. "Whether it's tsunamis or natural disasters at home, the Air Force has made an incredible effort to help people," he said.

Aeromedical evacuation's charter for helping people began in 1909 when Capt. George Gosman and Lt. Albert Rhoades designed the world's first air ambulance. However, air evacuation was not fully implemented until 1918 when Capt. William Ocker and Maj. Nelson Driver air transported the first U.S. patients in a converted JN-4 "Jenny" biplane.

That same year, Maj. William Ream conceived the idea of airborne medical equipment. In a Feb. 18, 1918 letter written weeks before he became the first flight surgeon aircraft fatality, Maj. Ream prophetically said, "...accidents occur at distant landing fields which may be remote from medical aid; I have this day improvised a first aid pouch that can be put in an airplane."

Airborne medical care was rudimentary and used sparingly during World War I. It was nearly non-existent for civilian patients in peacetime America until the 1940s. Military planners had opposed using aircraft for mass casualty transport primarily because of aeromedical technology limitations and lack of trained critical care aviation personnel.

That all changed when World War II made long distance air evacuation a necessity. Writing in the November 1951 Journal of the American Medical Association, Brig. Gen. Wilford Hall, for whom Lackland AFB's medical center is named, said, "The airplane has provided us with the essential worldwide means of bringing the patient to the doctor. It acts as a catalyst, for it sharply cuts the time needed to move a patient to the hospital for definitive care and, therefore speeds up the initiation of the entire healing process."

Aiding this process was Army Surgeon General David Grant who established in 1942 the School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, Ky. By 1943, the school graduated the first flight nurses who helped care for 1,176,043 patients air evacuated during WWII. The Air Force's first flight nurse, Geraldine Dishroon Brier, recalls their success, "Only 40 died enroute to hospitals. That's amazing."

The advent of Air Force helicopters used in Korean War air rescue operations later had a profound impact on the civilian emergency medical system. "What was validated on the battlefield with mass 'dust-off' helicopters has been applied to America through the use of Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST)," said Maj. Gen. Spurgeon Neal, Jr., former Army Deputy Surgeon General who helped develop Korean War air evacuation. Since 1966, MAST flights have increased civilian emergency patients' survival rate.

Former Air Force helicopter medic Henry Whitmore attests to Korean War air evacuation having lowered the casualty death rate by half of that experienced during WWII. "If we got them alive, we got them to their destination alive," says Mr. Whitmore, a retired U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine engineer who invented Vietnam War aeromedical evacuation electronic stethoscopes.

Air Force aeromedical evacuation technological innovations have also impacted public health. During the height of America's worst polio epidemic, USAFSAM scientists Syrel Wilks and J.F. Tomashefski created in 1952 the world's first air

transportable iron lung. Adapted from Philip Drinker and Louis Shaw's 1928 invention of a large metal tank used to assist respiration in infantile paralysis patients, the 'SAM lung' was the only air-worthy transportable iron lung in the U.S. during an epidemic that paralyzed over half a million people.

The greatest inventor of aeromedical evacuation marvels was Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Collins who from 1958 to 1962 developed a series of devices that aided in the comfort and survival of airborne patients. He invented the back rest-pillow support litter extension, the leg support adaptor for weightless traction and the portable therapeutic low pressure liquid oxygen system. His greatest invention was the patented surgical traction device for stretchers that bears his name, a milestone for the treatment and transport of patients with cervical spine injuries.

Other aeromedical evacuation innovations include USAFSAM physician-scientist Dr. Forrest Bird's Mark 10 respirator, Wright Patterson AFB inventor Henry Seeler's universal resuscitator and Wilford Hall Medical Center neonatologists' air transportable infant heart-lung bypass unit initially used in 1985 to save the life of one-day-old Joseph Vito.



Air Force photos

Brooks Air Force Base's Lt. Col. Joseph Collins invented and patented this surgical traction device for stretchers. It is used to air transport patients with cervical spine injuries.



Air Force evacuation personnel load abandoned Korean War orphans on a C-54 during Operation Kiddy Care Dec. 21, 1950.



Air Force critical care training has ‘air’ of urgency

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

To aeromedical evacuation instructors here who train Air Force Critical Care Air Transport Teams, the operative phrases “life-saving” and “life-sustaining” are synonymous.

Committed to conveying a sense of urgency in training critical care physicians, nurses and respiratory technicians, these highly motivated professionals are the gatekeepers of CCATT support in helping critically ill, injured and wounded patients survive. They are also called upon at the highest levels of government to provide critical care medical support and guidance.

“The White House contacted us for help (in using) critical care (medical) equipment they have (aboard Air Force One),” said Major Ruben Trevino, CCATT course director, referring to the Phoenix Banner mission that supported President Bill Clinton’s 1998 Bosnia visit.

Since its inception in 1997, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine’s CCATT training program has supported integrated Air Force aeromedical evacuation operations worldwide. CCATT was created in response to a shift in Air Force aeromedical evacuation doctrine following the first Persian Gulf War.

“With our doctrine shifting from ‘return to duty’ to ‘evacuate and replace,’ it is imperative that we begin the process

to develop training programs to care for stabilized patients in the aeromedical evacuation system,” observed Brig. Gen. Linda Stierle, Director of Medical Readiness Doctrine and Planning, in a 1996 letter. Prior to this shift, the air evacuation community had limited capabilities in transporting critically ill or injured patients. Advances in aeromedical technology, combined with CCATT training, have given the Air Force air evacuation system enhanced capabilities for supporting critically ill patients.

This was best reflected during a 2002 Neonatal CCATT mission involving Lackland Air Force Base’s Wilford Hall Medical Center. The center is equipped with Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, the world’s only long-range air transportable heart-lung bypass device that Wilford Hall neonatal personnel invented and first fielded in 1985. CCATT intervention three years ago using ECMO helped keep a U.S. Marine’s infant son alive during the boy’s aeromedical evacuation from Okinawa to Kelly Field.

A 2004 CCATT mission involving a cardiac patient needing a heart transplant didn’t have a successful outcome when the patient later died, but it underscored the importance of critical care in the air giving people a fighting chance to survive. “That mission would have been almost impossible 10 years ago,” said USAFSAM’s Lt. Col. Greg Cook.

CCATT’s development has since expanded the Air Force’s aeromedical clini-



Courtesy photo

The Air Force Critical Care Air Transport Team has developed a robust patient movement capability. AE is now tasked to rapidly evacuate casualties from numerous, forward locations supported by small expeditionary medical units, such as the one in the above photo. This has created the need to shift from evacuating "stable" patients to evacuating "stabilized" patients.

cal transport capabilities by providing intensive care unit support on board transport aircraft. “We fly all types of patients,” said Colonel Cook, referring to the gamut of conditions ranging from infectious disease to spinal chord injuries.

Today, the Air Force CCATT system supports over 200 teams worldwide. These include active, Guard and Reserve teams that have been involved in numerous contingency operations ranging from humanitarian relief to combat casualty support.

“Operation Enduring Freedom was the first large-scale test of CCATTs integrat-

ing in deployed settings with air evacuation,” said Lt. Col. Karen Evers, former CCATT course director at USAFSAM.. Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, USAFSAM has been exporting its specialized aeromedical evacuation training internationally, specifically with Latin American countries.

“The Air Force is leading the way in air evacuation training. Since 2003, the United Kingdom has been very interested in what we do and has proposed an instructor exchange. They have a similar program similar to CCATT,” Colonel Cook said.



Brooks scientist honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Dr. Richard Albanese was honored Oct. 13 with the U.S. Air Force Analyst Lifetime Achievement Award presented at the Air Force Operations Research Science meeting at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The award is the highest the 64-year-old Air Force Research Laboratory scientist has received in his long and distinguished career.

“I’m very grateful for the award, but everything that I have done has been part of a team. I really wish it could have been a team award,” said Dr. Albanese, a physician-scientist with AFRL’s Information Operations & Special Projects Division.

He earned the prestigious honor on the strength of a 34-year Air Force civil service career as an operations analyst and medical researcher. Dr. Albanese is considered by his peers and associates as one of the foremost authorities in the fields of radiation science and operational research. His ground-breaking work has supported national defense objectives and has significantly contributed to the health and safety of American military service personnel.

The award cited him for his contributions to

Air Force epidemiology, microwave physics, nuclear war planning, nuclear effects, medical experimentation and bio defense.

Among Dr. Albanese’s proudest achievements is his contributions to Air Force logistics planning involving air supply shipments to Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. “We developed algorithms for crew scheduling and deadheading (pre-placement of aircrews) that maximized the use of aircraft,” Dr. Albanese recalled.

Besides his analysis work supporting America’s global war on terrorism, Dr. Albanese was involved in Project Ranch Hand biomedical studies of Vietnam veterans and herbicide exposures.

“I never expected any recognition,” said the Newark, N.J. native whose career began under legendary Air Force scientist Col. John Pickering. Dr. Albanese began working for Colonel Pickering in 1971 at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Dr. Albanese graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry in 1962 and a medical degree from Columbia University in 1967. His post-doctoral work in radiobiology, with a mathematics emphasis, set the stage for his Air Force research career.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks’ Dr. Richard Albanese, a scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory, was honored with the Air Force Analyst Lifetime Achievement Award.



Brooks cyclists ride 150 miles for charity

By Elizabeth Castillo

Discovery writer

Against high head winds, scorching temperatures and stifling humidity, Brooks cyclists overcame obstacles in order to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis in the H.E.B. MS 150 “Bike to the Beach.”

Together with the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the many other riders, four Brooks’s cyclists embarked on the two day journey from San Antonio to Corpus Christi in order to help reach this year’s goal of \$1.5 million.

The 150-mile trek began Oct. 1 at the SBC Center on Houston Street, as 3,700 cyclists departed on the ride 50-100 riders at a time. The nearly 4,000 riders is the largest group of participants in the 16-year history of the event.

Split into two days, riders endured a tough 92-mile ride to Beeville on the first day and a 58-mile ride to the finish line in Corpus Christi on the second day. This year’s difficulties of strong head winds and high humidity added to the strain of the long and often hilly ride.

Brooks cyclist Vince Elequin, Deputy Chief of Population Research Branch, was the driving force for the Brooks cyclists in this year’s event. With six years of cycling experience, Mr. Elequin began rigorous training for fellow riders Art Forral, Yvonne Olivarez and her husband Frank, in early August.

“The main thing is putting time ‘in the saddle,’ we’re talking three to four hours,” said Mr. Elequin. “For our long rides, we go all around 1604 which is about 110 miles.”

First time MS 150 rider 2nd Lt. Colt Galeria of the Human Support Group enjoyed his experience despite the rough conditions.

“Saturday was a long, windy and hot 92-mile ride that forced many people to stop and take the bus to finish,” said Lieutenant Galeria. “Art (Forral) and I both completed the full race distance but Art is a real machine and finished about 90 minutes ahead of me overall, it was great experience that I look forward to doing next year.”

Yvonne Olivarez, a diagnostic coder for the Population Research Branch, and her husband Frank, spent many weekends training with Mr. Elequin in order to prepare for the MS 150. This was Mr. Olivarez’s second time riding the MS 150, and he and Mr. Elequin were able to convince Mrs. Olivarez that she could do it too. Mrs. Olivarez was thrilled to have been able to finish the first day and make it through the longest part of the ride.

“I did it and I couldn’t believe it,” said Mrs. Olivarez. “It was tough for me, but crossing the finish line was great.”

The next day, however, was met with more challenge than Mrs. Olivarez and the team expected.

“On Sunday we got up and felt good, it was just another day,” Mrs. Olivarez said. “We started off, and my husband went ahead of me, we were already about 14 miles into it and I saw a truck coming by and they were yelling to me that my husband had been in an accident.”

Mrs. Olivarez’s husband Frank was involved in a bike collision with another cyclist who was weaving his way through the riders. The impact caused him to fall from his bike onto his shoulder resulting in a broken collar bone. Mr. Olivarez was helped by an ambulance and was met up with his wife who had been picked up by a Support and Gear truck.

Even though he was injured, Mr. Olivarez wanted his wife to continue on and complete the race. “He told me to go head and go, but I couldn’t just leave him,” said Mrs. Olivarez. “So they took us back to Beeville, and we were there at the hospital for the rest of the day.”

Even experienced riders such as Mr. Forral, an engineer for Chemical Bio Defense who has ridden the MS 150 before, felt that this ride was slightly more difficult than those in the past.

“As the day wore on, a constant headwind developed from the south and the temperature started to climb,” Mr. Forral said. “I’ve ridden the route the last two years, but this time everything seemed much harder especially when going up the hills.”

Mr. Forral met these challenges with fervor, but was highly impressed by some of the other riders in this year’s event.

“This year, several disabled veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom were the first group to go,” Mr. Forral said. “As tough as it was for me, it must have been infinitely tougher on those war veterans, many of them were going to go to Corpus Christi on arm power alone.”

Though the trip can be grueling and very strenuous, the cause at hand is what drives people to devote their time and effort. Each participant is responsible for raising a minimum of \$200 to go towards the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, though many of them exceed this dollar amount.

“Every year I’ve come up with better than \$400; our fellow employees have been quite generous in helping out with these things over the years,” said Mr. Elequin. “You can help out others at the same time as helping yourself.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Brooks employees Vince Eloquent (right) and Arthur Forral at last year’s MS 150. The duo made the trek again this year, cycling 150 miles to Corpus Christi as part of an effort to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Airman hoopster to tour with pros

by 1st Lt. Teresa Sullivan

354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A vehicle operator at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, never thought she'd be touring with professional basketball players — especially after choosing the Air Force over a pro career in 2003.

However, that will be the case in two weeks when Airman 1st Class Naomi Mobley, from the 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron, will be will be touring with a Women's National Basketball Association exhibition team, called Everyone's Internet, for the Houston Comets, one of the teams she tried out for in 2002.

"This is a great opportunity and I'm excited to have the chance to go play with professional athletes," said Airman Mobley, a 6-foot-3-inch power forward.

She'll be the only non-pro on the team, comprised of current WNBA and international professional players. Their whirlwind tour across the United States begins in November. They will play against college teams in Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina and Washington D.C. Teams like Everyone's Internet play exhibition games in order to serve as practice for NCAA Division I teams prior to the official regular season kickoff later this fall.

Just how did an Airman stationed in Alaska get an opportunity like this? It took talent and good timing. She recently led the Air Force women's basketball team to its second consecutive Armed Forces tournament championship.

Airman Mobley participated in her second season on the Air Force team. The team played six games in six days at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, Calif., in October against sister service teams. Their 5-1 record earned them the championship over the Army.

"It feels excellent that our team won," she said. "All the

hard work during the pre-tournament training camp paid off."

After winning the Armed Forces championship, she was chosen to play on the All-Armed Forces team in the first-ever women's basketball Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Military Women's Basketball Championship, also held at Naval Base Ventura.

CISM, one of the largest international multi-sport federations, has been operational since 1948 organizing events such as the World Military Championships and the Military World Games. The U.S. team played against other military teams from the Netherlands, Kazakhstan and a team from the Los Angeles Police Department. Once again, Airman Mobley's team won the championship.

The obvious common denominator in the Air Force's two Armed Forces women's basketball tournament championships in a row and one CISM win is Airman Mobley — the All-Armed Forces Most Valuable Player. Needless to say, she caught the attention of spectators and coaches, which opened more windows of opportunity for her.

"A former Air Force coach of mine, Joyce Jenkins, knows the Houston Comets coach and she knew they needed another player to complete their exhibition team roster," said the 25-year-old from Jacksonville, Fla. "So she put my name in for it and they picked me. Thankfully my supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. (Mathew) Malenic, was able to allow me time off to take this opportunity."

Airman Mobley is no stranger to big-time basketball, considering she played three years at the University of Florida (1998-2001) and one year at Shaw University, N.C. (2002-2003). Mobley tried her luck at the professional level, trying out for the Houston Comets and the Los Angeles Sparks WNBA teams. She

turned down an offer to play professionally in Korea just before enlisting in the Air Force. Upon entering the Air Force in 2003, she knew she wanted to play for the Air Force Team. For the past two years, she has done just that.

"I really appreciate the opportunities given to me by leadership," she said. "I would really like to thank all my fellow Airmen in the shop for covering for me while I'm gone and would like to thank the command for allowing me to play and represent the Air Force and the Ice-man Team."

Airman Mobley's basketball expectations do not stop at the Air Force level. Eventually she would like to play Olympic basketball, setting her sights set on the 2008 games.

"Another goal I have is to continue playing for the Air Force team and to see how far we can push our winning streak. I'd like to play at the professional level someday, but we'll have to see what the future holds."

Opportunities like Airman Mobley's are possible through the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, a two-year program that provides active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel the opportunity to train and compete at national and international sports competitions with the ultimate goal of selection to the U.S. Olympic team.

Considering her current record, it looks like she is right on track. Not only does the hoopster have aspirations as an athlete, but she also has high hopes as an Airman.

"I love my Air Force career," she said. "Eventually I'd like to complete my degree and look towards an officer commissioning program."

For now, Airman Mobley will continue preparing to tour with Everyone's Internet, fulfilling her dream of playing with professional basketball players.



U.S. Navy photo

Airman 1st Class Naomi Mobley, 6-foot-3-inch power forward for the U.S. Armed Forces Women's Basketball Team, receives a gold medal after the Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Women's Basketball Championship.

Brooks to host hoops tourney

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In what could turn out to be a prelude to a very challenging season, the new-look Brooks varsity basketball team will showcase a faster, shooting adept club at 3 p.m., Oct. 28 here to kick off the 3rd Annual L. C. Artis Classic.

The double elimination tournament, which concludes with the Oct. 30 championship game at the Brooks Fitness Center gym, officially launches the Southwest Military Basketball League pre-season. Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Little Rock AFBs and the defending tournament champion San Antonio Diablos are among the teams competing in the tournament this year.

"This is the big preseason kickoff," said Brooks varsity head coach Damion Byrd.

"We came in third last year," said Coach Byrd about their Artis Classic finish a year ago. Brooks opens the regular season Nov. 5-6 at Lackland AFB. Those teams, along with Fort Sam and Goodfellow, Laughlin and Dyess AFBs, comprise the SWMBL's Southern Division.

The dynamics of the Artis Classic and the regular season will be different this year without Randolph AFB. "Their (long-time) coach Terrance Dunkley PCSed and they don't have a team this year," said Coach Byrd, characterizing Randolph's absence as 'huge.'

"It'll give a lot of hope, incentive and motivation to other teams trying to become the new (SWMBL) champ," the

Brooks coach predicted, noting that Randolph had dominated league play for years.

The Brooks club's chances for winning their first basketball championship diminished recently with the loss of team captain and starting point guard Demetrius Stewart. "It's a big loss. He had work issues to attend to, but he may be back," Coach Byrd said.

Replacing him is rookie point guard Russell Jackson from the 68th Information Operations Squadron. Air Force Research Laboratory rookie power forward Joshua Arrambide will join him in the starting lineup that also includes returning veterans Wilman Dean, the 68th IOS shooting guard; Mission Support Group small forward Roderick Bryant; and 311th Human Systems Wing center Laderis Harper.

With the exception of reserve point guard Anthony Tillman from the Human Systems Group, the Brooks bench is filled with rookies. They include Richard Woodard, a 68th IOS shooting guard/small forward; USAFSAM power forward Reginald Hardin; and civilian dependents Toby Proctor and Donald Poole.

"It's the first time that I've been around military basketball where the team is mostly rookies," said the Brooks coach.

If the Brooks team makes a run at the SWMBL championship, they'll have to overcome inexperience and a severe height disadvantage. "We have a lot of shooters and speed that we'll use to our advantage," Coach Byrd said.

Services wins base golf title

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While they likely won't be invited to represent the U.S. in the annual Davis Cup classic, the 311th Services golf team nonetheless has established itself as a local links dynasty in having won another base intramural championship Oct. 5.

Services needed a four-hole playoff to defeat a tenacious Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence team to capture its second base championship in three years.

"It was the closest playoff we've ever had," said Services team stalwart Jose Valadez, who was a member of the 2003

championship Services squad that won both the league and base crown.

Seeded first as the three-time defending intramural league champs, Services nevertheless had its hands full with an AFCEE club that had never won a base title.

"It was a very good close match with us," admits Mr. Valadez, referring to the 18-hole match play contest that came down to the last hole.

"We were down one hole going into the 18th. All we had to do was tie them and we would have won," recalls Mr. Valadez about he and playing partner Rudy Gonzales finishing the round dead even with their op-

ponent. The other Services squad of Jeff Mylar and Jimmy Connell had handily defeated AFCEE in the other match-up.

In match play, teams earn one point for winning a round and a half-point for a tie. AFCEE and Services each won a round, requiring the playoff.

"Joe Rosales (of AFCEE) chipped off the green for a birdie to win our match," recalls Mr. Valadez. The shot that won the round forced Services into a three-hole playoff.

Rosales kept the pressure on the Services playoff pairing of Mylar-Connell, forcing them to play the deciding fourth hole, golf's match play equivalent of double overtime.